

Approved For Release 2003/10/29 : CIA-RDP80R01731R001300250001-4

State Department review completed

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON
March 25, 1948



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Cia 20854

~~TOP~~ SECRET

Dear Hillie:

Tommy Thompson asked me to pass on to you the enclosed letter from Offie with my comments.

As Offie indicates in his letter, he does not envisage that the suggested plan should be put into effect before a State Department takeover. Since the takeover has been postponed, I feel that any action along the lines suggested should be delayed for the following reasons:

1. The oral agreement in early 1946 between General Clay and Marshal Sokolovsky provided for the earliest return of delinquents from the respective US and Soviet forces. We are in much the more vulnerable position since, owing to our situation in Berlin, the Soviets could arrest and hold larger numbers of our people than Soviet officers who would come to us.

2. The British have no such formal agreement with the Soviets and they seem to be fairly adept at keeping escapees under wraps. I presume our people have access to the results of the British interrogation of Soviet escapees.

Should the western allies ever have to leave Berlin, there would, of course, be less objections to proceeding immediately and under full steam with a plan such as that suggested in Offie's letter.

Our conclusions will, of course, be influenced by any views you may care to submit. I would appreciate return of Offie's letter in due course.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure:
As stated.

Jacob D. Beam
Jacob D. Beam

Rear Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter,
Director, Central Intelligence Agency,
Washington, D.C.